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Excerpts from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Treaty of Paris

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COURTESY: MARIXA ALICEA

Unidos para Triunfar—Together We Overcome, West Town Humboldt Park neighborhood, Chicago

REFLEXIONES

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Treaty of Paris radically changed the history of the Americas. The following excerpts from the treaties attest to the fact that their effect is still being felt today.

I. PEACE, FRIENDSHIP, LIMITS, AND SETTLEMENT, TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO, FEBRUARY 2, 1848.

On February 2, 1848 the Treaty was signed in Guadalupe Hidalgo, a city north of the capital where the Mexican government had fled as U.S. troops advanced. Its provisions called for Mexico to cede 55 percent of its territory (present-day Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and parts of Colorado, Nevada and Utah) in exchange for fifteen million dollars in compensation for war-related damage to Mexican property.

Article VIII

Mexicans now established in territories previously

belonging to Mexico, and which remain for the future within the limits of the United States, as defined by the present Treaty, **shall be free to continue where they now reside**, or to remove at any time to the Mexican Republic, **retaining the property which they possess in the said territories**, or disposing thereof and removing the proceeds wherever they please; without their being subjected, on this account, to any contribution, tax or charge whatever.

Those who shall prefer to remain in the said territories, may either retain the title and rights of Mexican citizens, or acquire those of citizens of the United States. But, they shall be under the obligation to make their election within one year from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this treaty. And those who shall remain in the said territories, after the expiration of that year, without having declared

their intention to retain the character of Mexicans, shall be considered to have elected to become citizens of the United States.

Article XII

In consideration of the extension acquired by the boundaries of the United States, as defined in the fifth Article of the present treaty, the Government of the United States engages to pay to that of the Mexican Republic the sum of fifteen Millions of Dollars. Immediately after this Treaty shall have been duly ratified by the Government of the Mexican Republic, the sum of three Millions of Dollars shall be paid to the said Government by that of the United States at the city of Mexico, in the gold or silver coin of Mexico.

THE TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN—THE TREATY OF PARIS, DECEMBER 10, 1898

Article I

Spain relinquishes all claim of sovereignty over and title to Cuba. And as the island is, upon its evacuation by Spain, to be occupied by the United States, the **United States will**, so long as such occupation shall last, **assume and discharge the obligations that may under international law result from the fact of its occupation**, for the protection of life and property.

Article II

Spain cedes to the United States the island of Porto Rico and other islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies, and the island of Guam in the Marianas or Ladrones.

Article III

Spain cedes to the United States the archipelago known as the Philippine Islands...

Article IX

The civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territories hereby ceded to the United States shall be determined by the Congress. ■

Migration of a People, West Town Humboldt Park neighborhood, Chicago



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